

NORTH GIPPSLAND BOWLS DIVISION

SATURDAY PENNANT

I assume all Clubs are aware of a recent communication from Bowls Victoria “navigating a return to play, COVID guidelines for Bowls Clubs”

The Competition Committee has not had an opportunity to meet and discuss this communication. After a meeting on Monday 19 October 2020 there may be further comments/decisions coming forward.

The following is my comments on some of the matters raised.

1. COVID Marshall

Home Clubs are to have a trained marshal at pennant. I suspect that most Clubs will not have such trained people at this short notice. It is important that Clubs appoint someone that has some skills and experience in a related field. Do the best you can.

2. Masks

Pleasingly, masks are to be worn at all times other than when playing bowls. That is a relief.

3. Break

Saturday pennant rules specify a break. As suggested by Bowls Vic, an agreed shortened break of, say 10min., is a good compromise.

4. Staggering Breaks/Starts

To assist with maintaining social distancing, agreed staggering of start times and breaks should be adopted wherever possible.

5. Pennant Check Forms

Forms are to be completed by Side Managers of the Home Club. Although this suggests that the visiting Side Manager does not sign the form it is important that the form is checked and signed by both Managers.

6. Scoreboard

One person ONLY from the Home Club to operate the scoreboard.

7. Refreshments

Home Clubs can provide tea and coffee if it is possible to do so in a compliant manner. I am sure visiting players/Clubs will understand if tea and coffee is not provided. Water fountains are not to be used.

The bottom line here is bring your own EVERYTHING.

I encourage all Clubs to have a good understanding of what Bowls Vic is telling us. It would have been great if this stuff arrived earlier. But apparently BV has been working on this for some time.

We all want to play bowls. So, I encourage all Clubs and players to make the effort to work together to get all games played on Saturday 17 October 2020. If there are any serious matters that come out of Saturday's play they will be dealt with later. That is the best I can offer you at this stage.

Jeff Wheaton

Chairman, Saturday Pennant Competition Committee